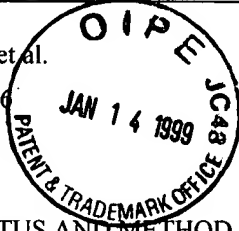


IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Sorensen et al.
Serial No.: 09/172,556
Filed: 10/14/98
Due Date: 1/14/98
Title: APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR VENDING PRODUCTS

Examiner: not assigned
Group Art Unit: 3615
Docket: 424.83USi1



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Group 3700

CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this Transmittal Letter and the paper, as described hereinabove, are being deposited in the United States Postal Service, as first class mail, in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on January 11, 1999.

By: *Mara E. Liepa*

Mara E. Liepa

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

We are transmitting herewith the attached:

- ☒ Transmittal Sheet in duplicate containing Certificate of Mailing
- ☒ Other: Information Disclosure Statement and Form 1449.
- ☒ Return postcard

Please consider this a PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME for a sufficient number of months to enter these papers, if appropriate. Please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-2725. A duplicate of this sheet is enclosed.

MERCHANT, GOULD, SMITH, EDELL,
WELTER & SCHMIDT
3100 Norwest Center, Minneapolis, MN 55402
(612) 332-5300

By: *Mara E. Liepa*

Name: Mara E. Liepa
Reg. No.: 40,066
MEL:lmg

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S/N 08/949,366

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V. Smith
4/1/99
PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Sorensen et al. Examiner: unknown
Serial No.: 09/172,556 Group Art Unit: 3615
Filed: 10/14/98 Docket No.: 424.83USI
Title: APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR VENDING PRODUCTS



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Group 3700

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT (37 C.F.R. §1.97(b))

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

With regard to the above-identified application, the items of information listed on the enclosed Form 1449 are brought to the attention of the Examiner.

This statement should be considered because it is submitted before the mailing date of a first Office Action on-the-merits. Accordingly, no fee is due for consideration of the items listed on the enclosed Form 1449.

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.98(d), no copies of the documents or other information listed on the enclosed Form 1449 are provided. Applicants have previously provided the Patent Office with copies of the listed information in the application from which this application claims priority, U.S. patent application having serial number 08/949,366, filed October 14, 1997.

No representation is made that a reference is "prior art" within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103 and Applicants reserve the right, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.131 or otherwise, to establish that the reference(s) are not "prior art." Moreover, Applicants do not

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represent that a reference has been thoroughly reviewed or that any relevance of any portion of a reference is intended.

Consideration of the items listed is respectfully requested. Pursuant to the provisions of M.P.E.P. 609, it is requested that the Examiner return a copy of the attached Form 1449, marked as being considered and initialed by the Examiner, to the undersigned with the next official communication.

Please charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-2725.

Respectfully submitted,

January 11, 1999
Date

Mara E. Liepa
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